

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

---:---

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 14, 1976

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DOYLE G. BERRY,  
Chairman.

Municipal Auditorium  
Morgan City, Louisiana



**Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.**  
*Stenotypists*

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 • (504) 524-4787

# P R O C E E D I N G S

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened on Friday, May 14, 1976, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Municipal Auditorium, Morgan City, Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman, presiding.

## PRESENT WERE:

DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JEAN LAPEYRE, Member

JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director.

Representative to Louisiana Department of Highways

for Tourist Information Center.

## A G E N D A

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

1. Request from H & B Construction Company of

Louisiana, Inc., and B & S Materials,

Inc. to remove river sand from the

Mississippi River at Levee Station 2691.



2. Request for permit to remove fill material (6)  
 from the Mississippi River on right  
 descending bank in the vicinity of  
 Miles 81.1 to 83.4 AHP by All State  
 Sand Company.
3. Request for renewal of permit to remove fill (7)  
 material from the Red River in the  
 vicinity of Shreveport and Bossier City,  
 Bossier Parish, Louisiana, by H & H  
 Contracting Company, Inc.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

4. Catahoula Lake Water Level. (9)

MR. JOE HERRING

5. Consider selling one-half acre parcel of (18)  
 land on Pearl River Wildlife Management  
 Area to Louisiana Department of Highways  
 for Tourist Information Center.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. Discuss current legislation. (19)
7. Present award to Wildlife Agent of the Year. (25)  
 Proposed sale of Point au Fer Island. (15)  
 General comments re conservation efforts. (31)  
 Requests from Webster Parish official. (37)



CHAIRMAN BERRY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to see all of you this morning. It is a pleasure to see the press with us and various members of public bodies from the state and particularly from this parish. I see faces here from all over the state. We are glad to have you with us and, to say the least, I am glad we are finally having a meeting in Morgan City so the folks in south Louisiana can have some input on our setting of the game limits and bag limits without driving long distances to Alexandria as they have had to do in the past.

First this morning we are going to have our regular meeting. We have published an agenda for it and we will adhere to the agenda. Then we will adjourn the regular meeting and we will go into getting information on setting the bag limits and the seasons.

Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have three items this morning. They all deal with permits for dredging for fill material in the Mississippi



River.

The first one is a request by H & B Construction Company of Louisiana, Inc., and B & S Materials to remove sand from the Mississippi River at Levee Station 2691. This permit is in effect but the Corps of Engineers has asked that they move their operation about a mile so what we are doing is modifying the permit to that position, and we so recommend.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. MARC DUPUY, JR.: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the



Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to H & B Construction Company of Louisiana, Inc., and B & S Materials, Inc. to remove sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at Levee Station 2580 through Levee Station 2600 in lieu of Levee Station 2691 as originally shown on their permit issued November 18, 1975, for a period of one year.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 2 is a request for permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River on the right descending bank in the vicinity of Mile 81.1 to 83.4 AHP by All State Sand Company. This is a new permit. We have examined it and we find that it meets all the requirements set forth by this Commission and I would recommend we grant them a permit for one year at a royalty of five cents per yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.



MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy and seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to All State Sand Company to remove fill material from the Mississippi River on the right descending bank in the vicinity of Mile 81.1 to 83.4 AHP for a period of one year from May 14, 1976 to May 14, 1977, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The final item is a renewal of a permit now in existence for the



dredging of sand and fill material from the Red River in the vicinity of Shreveport and Bossier City by the H & H Contracting Company. This permit has been operating satisfactorily for the last year. It terminates and should be renewed by July 1. We therefore recommend that the permit be renewed with the same stipulations for a period of one year at five cents a yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. HARVEY C. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the  
resolution is here made  
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the  
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries





Commission does hereby grant permission to H & H Contracting Company, Inc. to remove fill material from the Red River in the vicinity of Shreveport and Bossier City, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, renewing their permit which will expire on June 30, 1976, for a period of one year at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have a letter from the manager of the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge up in LaSalle Parish, pertaining to the management of water levels on Catahoula Lake this summer. They are in the process of constructing a waterfowl management area on the refuge which would occupy some 1,900 acres. They need to build a levee across one end of this proposed impoundment and would like to hold the water levels on Catahoula Lake at an elevation of 31 feet up until the latter part of June and then drop the water levels on down as we normally do for the production



of the waterfowl food production on the Lake.

Now we operate the water levels on the Lake under a joint agreement that we have with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Corps of Engineers, and the manager of the refuge felt that we should all agree in taking this action, in order that they can complete the impoundment that they want to build there on the refuge.

Now if this water level is handled this summer as he proposes, it would also provide for a longer growing season for the waterfowl food plants on the Lake and certainly this would be beneficial because as we all know, due to construction work that was going on up there in '72, '73 and '74, we did not produce a duck food crop. So, dropping the water levels on Catahoula Lake to a slightly lower level a little earlier than the agreement actually calls for would provide for a longer growing season, and this would be beneficial.

Also, it has been the Commission's intention to go around the edge of the Lake and remove some of the water elm and swamp privet that



is occupying mud flat areas that would normally produce high quality duck food plants, and if we get the water down off the Lake, it will permit us to get in there and do this work earlier this fall and do more of it.

We would recommend that we go along with the proposal from the Fish & Wildlife Service in handling the water levels in the manner that they propose for this summer. Also, of course, we will have to get concurrence of the Corps of Engineers in order to do this. However, we would not expect that they would offer any objection.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask Mr. Luttrell and Mr. Thompson to make some comments. This is in their backyard and I wouldn't dare touch Catahoula Lake without talking to them.

MR. LUTTRELL: Who do you want first?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman.

MR. LUTTRELL: O. K. I agree with this heartily except I would like to see the dewatering from the 31-foot level start about the middle of June on down. That would be just two weeks earlier. But the plan that he has given, as I



see it, is an excellent plan and well worth consideration.

Jimmie, what do you think?

MR. THOMPSON: Well, I would just like to point out one thing that, Dick, you pointed out earlier. Generally every year when Catahoula Lake gets at a low stage, from the heat of the sun and probably a little algae and so forth, we generally have a little fish die-off and I see no reason why we wouldn't have this same fish die-off again this year, and I would like for it to be clearly presented to the sportsmen that they will know in advance that this is not a direct result of lowering the Lake to build this impoundment but it is a natural thing that happens almost every year. I don't think we have missed a year in many years. Am I correct in saying that?

MR. YANCEY: We have a fish die-off of some magnitude up there virtually every year. The Lake level under natural conditions traditionally drops to a very low level each summer and when this occurs, normally water temperatures rise in the water; you get an oxygen deficiency, and this



results in a die-off of fish.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, it goes one step further. I would even say that I would be in favor of the die-off if it meant that we were going to get this duck impoundment that we have been trying to get ever since I can remember, really, and we have been unsuccessful and now, just out of the clear blue sky, they are going to build it, so I would say, if we do get a little fish die-off, well, I am willing to go with it.

MR. YANCEY: If we could go with their proposal and, as Mr. Luttrell pointed out, advance the dewatering date by two weeks, this would also provide for a longer growing season on the Lake and would help bring the Lake back a lot more rapidly than we could expect otherwise.

MR. LUTTRELL: I want to qualify why I asked for an extra two weeks. The duck food that is the scarcest is the chufa nut, and the chufa nut is more plentiful on the sandbars. Chufa grows a little slower than your wild oats, and that would help us reestablish a much larger percent of the chufa, that extra two weeks, because



the sand bars would come out earlier.

The water levels on the rivers up in that part of the state are the lowest that we have had in several years and we have got an opportunity to do that this summer, and we should really take advantage of it.

MR. LUTTRELL: Yes, and you see, 30 feet mean sea level on the Lake puts the water in the bushes all around the entire Lake, and if we had the extra two weeks we could get it out on the sandbars and we haven't really hurt the middle.

MR. DUPUY: Dick, you might make a brief comment on the significance of Catahoula Lake to waterfowl populations in Louisiana, since the whole Commission may not know about it.

MR. YANCEY: Well, Catahoula Lake is the most important area, single area, for migratory waterfowl that we know of in the entire Mississippi Flyway. It occupies about 25,000 acres and normally has a duck population of about 200,000 birds, mainly mallard and pintails. We have got about 1,500 duck blinds on the Lake, so it is heavily utilized by the public, and these



birds, of course, don't limit their activities to Catahoula Lake. They are circulating out into other wetland areas around the Lake for a distance of 30 to 40 miles, so it is instrumental in holding the duck population in that part of the state and providing duck-hunting opportunity for the hunters that use the Lake as well as those that hunt within 30 or 40 miles of the Lake, so it is extremely important that we do the best possible job we can in producing the maximum duck food crop.

MR. LUTTRELL: I move that we adopt this plan.

THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lapeyre seconds it.

All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Dick, would you like to comment for public information this morning about the Point au Fer Island offer we have had?



MR. YANCEY: That would be a very worthy topic, since we are here in Morgan City.

Point au Fer Island has been offered to the Commission for sale by the Catholic Church of New Orleans and the John Smith Corporation, which is an Illinois-based corporation. Now this particular tract of marshland, as we all know, lies directly south of here and occupies approximately 47,000 acres, and it has been offered for sale to the Commission for a price of \$125 an acre.

Of course, at this time we do not have the funds to exercise that purchase. Neither have we had the area appraised to determine just what the fair market value is. Now customarily when the Commission receives an offer of a tract of land for sale, the seller always names the price. Then we have the property appraised and we never pay over the appraised price for the property.

What we will do, of course, we have a request in our budget for funds for land acquisition, which is coming up before the legislature now, and if, you know, the people in this area would like to proceed with that purchase and if





funds are made available for the acquisition, then we would have the property appraised and see if we could proceed from there.

Now, if the area would be acquired, it would be managed as a Wildlife Management Area where public hunting and fishing and outdoor recreation is permitted. Certainly we are all aware of the fact that Point au Fer Island is one of the most important marshland areas that we have on the entire Louisiana coast. It winters a host of migratory waterfowl. You have all the native furbearing animals that are typical of this area on the Island, a fairly high alligator population. You have got deer and, of course, you have got good fishing out on the Island, particularly with redfish and your native freshwater species.

Certainly this is a matter that the Commission should give serious consideration to and look into and determine if we should go ahead and attempt to buy that property, but we thought we would mention this as a matter of information since Point au Fer is right here close to Morgan City and it is something that the people here



would want to know about, but at this time certainly no action can be taken by the Commission because we have got to develop this thing a lot further insofar as available funds and appraisal are concerned.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dick.

Mr. Herring.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Louisiana Highway Department has requested approximately half an acre of land, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission land, on Interstate-10 on our Pearl River Wildlife Management Area for a rest and tourist center there, and they can either purchase this land from us or get it on a long-term easement.

We would recommend that it be on a long-term easement since some of these funds were federal funds used in purchasing it, which would make it much easier for the Commission to transfer it over to them. It will also depend on having it cleared through the BOR of the federal people who used funds, so I would recommend to the Commission at this time that we go ahead and grant



them an easement on this property.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Joe.

Dick, do you want to come to the podium and touch base on this recent legislation? A large part of the Director's time and the staff's time, including Mr. Yancey's, is spent in Baton Rouge this time of the year, trying to watch the legislature and make sure they don't butcher the Commission to death or the Wild Life and Fisheries to death, and he has about three sheets of legislation there that will directly affect the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries and the sportsmen of this



state.

Dick, you might go over this now.

MR. YANCEY: As Mr. Berry pointed out, a rather large number of bills have already been introduced into the current legislative session that would relate to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and fish and wildlife management in Louisiana. I believe so far we have about, around 30 bills and resolutions that have been introduced.

Now, these things cover a rather wide range of topics. Three or four of them would apply to exemption for people who would be just given permits for hunting and fishing in Louisiana rather than have to buy licenses. One will would exempt non-residents over 60 from having to buy hunting and fishing licenses. Another one would exempt veterans who have 50 percent disability from buying hunting and fishing licenses. There are other bills of this nature that have already been introduced.

The Commission has had a bill introduced that would set up the State Wildlife Refuge over in Vermilion Parish on a self-sustaining financial



basis. Similar bills have already been enacted by the legislature that would do this on Marsh Island and Rockefeller Wildlife Refuges, and if this bill passes a portion of the annual revenue from the Refuge would be set aside in a special fund and when it got up to the \$5 million level, the money would be invested and the Refuge would be run in perpetuity from the income from the investments. That is one of the real important bills that we have had introduced.

Also, there is a Constitutional amendment that has been introduced that would put in the Constitution the establishment of the Conservation Fund. Of course, this has been a subject of tremendous importance to the sportsmen around the state for many years. They want the Conservation Fund protected and all money that goes into the Conservation Fund would then be used only for fish and wildlife management purposes, rather than being diverted over to the General Fund and used for other uses within the state of Louisiana.

One bill has been introduced that would allow the taking of bait shrimp during closed



seasons. Other bills have been introduced that would allow the use of slat traps in certain parishes and statewide in Louisiana.

Another bill has been introduced that would eliminate the plug gun requirement for hunting resident game in the state.

Another bill has been introduced to exempt those participating in field trials and other similar organized activities from buying a hunting license.

One or two trespass bills have been introduced, which are certainly of importance to the hunters, particularly in the state.

One bill has been introduced that would delete the tagging requirements for deer and other animals that would be subdivided.

Other bills have been introduced that would prohibit the use of gill nets, trammel nets and seines in certain areas of Louisiana. This would be more or less an expansion of some of the existing prohibitions along the Louisiana coast.

Another bill has been introduced to remove the Tangipahoa River in Tangipahoa Parish



from the Scenic Rivers System.

We have got a resolution that urges and requests the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to have an alligator season in St. Mary and parts of St. Martin Parishes.

Another resolution that would ask Congress not to enact any laws that would prohibit the use of steel leg-hold traps in the state.

Other resolutions have been introduced that pertain to the future management of the Atchafalaya Basin and the Atchafalaya River.

We have got another resolution that has been introduced that requests the Commission to run the goose and duck hunting season dates concurrently.

This basically summarizes the bills that have been introduced, Mr. Chairman. Normally there will be 60 to 70 bills that will be introduced in these legislative sessions that affect fish and wildlife and what the Commission normally does is to have representatives present at all committee meetings at the time these bills are up for discussion and consideration, and the Director



here tries to make all of those and offer comments to the committee as to how the Commission feels about these various bills.

Basically, the way we have watched the legislature operate over the years, we think some tremendous improvements have been made up there in how they hear testimony on bills and how they handle the bills. The committee meetings are always given advance notice now and the bills that are going to come up at that particular committee meeting are widely publicized, so we have a good feel on the legislative process up there now and we feel as a whole that some tremendous improvements have been made on how they are handling bills up there, because the sportsmen around the state and commercial fishermen and what-have-you, if they keep abreast of what is going on, can go to the committees and testify and be heard at the time these various bills are coming up. At least notice is now being given and it has worked out pretty well the last few years.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dick.

At this time I think the Director would





like to present the award to the Wildlife Agent of the Year. Mr. Angelle.

DIRECTOR J. BURTON ANGELLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, fellow employees, customarily on a yearly basis we award to the game agent of the Enforcement Division of Wild Life and Fisheries a token of appreciation of this person who has been chosen by his peers, people that he works with, of our feeling towards a job well done.

I would like for Agent Tommy Candies, Lieutenant Candies, to come up forward. Tommy.

(Lieutenant Candies complies.)

Tommy, you were chosen as the Agent of the Year by your peers in the Enforcement Division. You did get recognition at the Southeastern Conference of Fish and Game Association in St. Louis. We are today again providing you with additional recognition from your own people.

I would like to read what his Chief has said about him, who was then the Assistant Chief, and his Captain. This is what they say about



Tommy.

"Your outstanding work the past year has earned you this honor. Not only did you lead your district in the number of cases this past year, you proved you are willing to work anywhere and anytime throughout the state. You are to be commended for your investigative work on alligator poachers and illegal hunting of deer. Signed, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Gillespie."

Written by his Captain: "Agent Candies' performance and dedication for the past year has been outstanding. Last year he was credited for 585 arrests and so far this year he has a total of 216," which was halfway through the year at the time of the writing of this letter. "The relationship between the Commission and the public in his parish has greatly improved over the past year, all due to his determination to do a good job and his concern for wildlife."

Another paragraph from his Captain gives a little background on Tommy Candies which is not going to tell anything about Tommy Candies prior to 1970 but when he became an agent in 1970, this



is what they say about him:

"He has worked his way up to a Lieutenant. For the past five years Agent Candies has done outstanding work in the field of law enforcement. He has led his district in the amount of citations issued and has concentrated on major violations. From last year to the present he is credited with 854 cases, in about 17 or 18 months of work. 136 of them were major violations from hunting, taking and possessing deer at night or closed season, illegal night hunting, taking and possession of alligators in closed season, to fish shocking. He had a total of 284 angling cases, 336 boat cases, 29 migratory bird cases, and 76 miscellaneous cases. Not only does he patrol work in his district, he has been used on numerous occasions for undercover work and for investigation of game violations.

"Agent Candies has been real effective, working with the courts in his parish and adjacent parishes. The parish in which he works has moved from no fines collected to approximately 95 percent fines being collected at present."



That is a great accomplishment for a young man and in behalf of the Commission, Candies, we congratulate you, we appreciate your work, and this is why we have asked you to be here today to give you this additional recognition.

Congratulations.

(Applause)

In addition to the Commission and the Enforcement Division recognizing Lieutenant Candies, the Shika Safari Club International also has recognized this man's achievement as a wild-life officer and has awarded him the Wildlife Officer of the Year. The Shika Safari Club International is a conservation group and this is what they are dedicated to: to preserving nature's resources through sportsmanship and conservation, that future generations may enjoy what the past has entrusted to our care.

In behalf of the Shika Safari Club International, Tommy, I am proud to present you this award, and this is a short letter from them to you that I would like also to read and put into the record.



It says, "May your example be an inspiration to the many fine wildlife officers in whose professional and capable hands the management of our wildlife depends. Among other sportsmen of America, we want to thank you and let you know that we appreciate you. We support you and we recognize that without your great dedication and love for the wildlife, we soon might not have any.

"The plaque which we had especially hand-molded for you may serve any number of practical purposes, but above all it will attest forever to your dedication to your work and to the welfare of our nation's wildlife.

"Also in your name the Shika Safari Club International has made a contribution to the National Foundation for Conservation Environmental Officers, New Jersey. This Foundation, formed by a group of concerned sportsmen, was inspired by the ambush of two wildlife officers in South Carolina. It is to provide financial assistance to the survivors of wildlife personnel of all states who have lost their lives in performance



of duty or who may die or become disabled through accident, drowning, auto or air crash, murder or manslaughter and service-connected illness such as heart failure during the performance of strenuous assignment.

"We hope that you as well as we will be proud of this contribution.

"On behalf of Shika Safari Club International, we send you a great big thank-you.

"Signed, James G. Shirley, Vice President."

Also along with this is a plaque you can hang on the wall, another symbol of recognition.

To all of this, Tommy, to Captain Montet and to all your superiors, Chief of Enforcement Jim Gillespie who is sitting in the audience, and on behalf of the Commission and in behalf of the sportsmen of the state, we thank you very much.

Congratulations again.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Burt. Tommy, we are all proud of you. I think I can speak for the whole Commission. We think you have done a fantastic job. Keep the good work up, and we hope



and know you will be an inspiration to the other agents.

Along these same lines, I would like to ask Mr. Herring to make a few statements, just to let the audience know where we have come with conservation, wildlife management, and good enforcement, what it has meant to the people of this state and other states.

I know as a young lad, if we saw a deer track when I was a kid, you had had a big month, let alone seeing a deer, and now most people who want to see a deer can see one, and you can see turkeys.

Joe, would you like to step on and carry on that a little bit.

MR. HERRING: With an act like that just put on, it is kind of hard to follow Burt, but I will make a couple of comments.

Mainly I would like to say something about the deer population today. We can look back some 25 years ago and less than 20 percent of this state had deer, and now in the whole state we do have some type of deer season in it, and it looks



like that of all of our meetings that we have now, this is one of the most controversial issues, if it is one, that we usually have.

Our seasons then are even longer than most states and our bag limits are more.

I think we can look at our turkey population even now, too. We have come a long way in getting those reestablished, along with other game. So, these are just some of the examples, along with the rabbits, the squirrels and waterfowl and many other things that through the protection and management of our wildlife species that we have done a good job. In fact, the whole Commission has done an excellent job in reestablishing these populations.

We can even look back to the Louisiana Purchase, and that's a long ways back in wildlife management and enforcement, and find that a lot of the areas then were void of deer. We think that back then we had an abundance of animals. We didn't. We probably have more of some species now than we had then. Even the surveyors then, we find in history, ate dogs and other types of animals





because they couldn't find deer to eat at that time back in the woods in the survey crews. Now we are having deer problems in some of those areas, complaints.

So, with good protection and good management of these species, I think we in the state have come a long way, and I think a lot of people really don't realize the abundance of wildlife we have in our state, possibly as compared to a lot of other states joining us or maybe even north of us. We do have one of the longest hunting seasons. We start here in Louisiana in September with the early dove season. We go through April with the turkey season, so really that is about eight months out of the year here that we have some type of hunting.

We just ended up with a season and here we are having a public hearing, trying to formulate another season, so it just seems like it is never ending with what we have here.

I think all of this can be credited to a good staff in the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission there and the excellent enforcement on it, and I think we can see the results. I think the



sportsmen can see some of the results that we have had through much of this with enforcement, management, and a combination of people who are interested. I think this is one thing we should never forget either, because no matter what we do in our wildlife program, we do have to have the support of the sportsmen and the people of our state. It is a combination of factors made good, and it is real good that we can recognize such people as our agents here and have an award for this.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. THOMPSON: Joe, just one thing before you go. Just a graphic illustration. Would you tell them about Tennessee, how their population in forest is and how their population in game is, compared to ours. The same area.

MR. HERRING: We in our state kill around 70,000 to 80,000 deer a year, somewhere in that category from last year to this year, we are just finishing up our survey from last year, and this is twice as many, as he mentioned there, as a state such as Tennessee, and they have much more forested area in some of these areas than we do. We feel



like they started, a lot of states did, on their rehabilitation of deer habitat and trying to protect our deer, trying to move them from areas where we had a few to areas where we didn't have any, and now then we are ahead of these other states. They are killing about, some of them, just probably half of what we are, as Tennessee.

I think, just as an example, to go back 25 years ago and look at only 20 percent of this state was actually open for deer hunting, and now all of it, and that is just progress itself, Mr. Thompson, rather than comparing it with anyone else. I think this is just a good thing that the state has done in moving these deer around and getting them established in all suitable habitat. We do have areas that just are not suitable, but I think this is just a good example of getting them established in suitable habitat.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Joe.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to say this. When I first got on the Commission, I took it to be another blase state bureaucratic organization that really didn't accomplish much. As most of you who



know me know I have traveled extensively, not only in the United States but in many foreign countries. Since I have gotten to know what the Commission does and how it operates, I can't praise the work that this group of people at the Wild Life and Fisheries has done enough, can't praise them enough for the progress they have made in conserving our wildlife and our natural resources in this state.

When I see what our sister states are doing, what states out West are doing, up North are doing, I am just delighted when I come back home and see what has been done here. Believe me, I don't believe anywhere in the world is getting better conservation and better wildlife management than you are getting of your resources here in Louisiana. I really think that we owe an awful lot to people like Dick Yancey, Joe Herring, Chief Gillespie and all the people that work with them; Dr. St. Amant has played a big hand in this. Everybody that is involved with the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has done the State of Louisiana and its people a wonderful job. Believe me, if they hadn't, I would be right here on the other



hand that they hadn't done it.

I don't know of anywhere, any state or any foreign country, that is getting as much for their money as the sportsmen of Louisiana are getting for theirs here now.

Mr. Thompson, did you wish to say something?

MR. THOMPSON: No, that's enough.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to entertain a motion that we adjourn this meeting for the time being and then we are going to take up the bag limits and seasons shortly hereafter.

MR. KIRKIKIS: This is for the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Come right up. This is Mr. Ike Kirkikis, I believe is the right pronunciation, and he is a member of the Police Jury for Webster Parish.

MR. A. G. "IKE" KIRKIKIS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Angelle, Director, I am Ike Kirkikis from the Webster Parish Police Jury. I have a couple of items that I want to bring up to the Commission before the Commission adjourns.

One item, of course, we talk about



conservation, and this is related to conservation. We have two special agents in Webster Parish and one of them is in need of a radio. Our representative Harmon Drew I believe got one about two or three years ago, an obsolete model. Well, our radio repair man can't find the obsolete parts now to repair that obsolete radio, so we would request from the Commission if we could possibly get another obsolete radio to renew our parts, if we possibly could.

They are doing an excellent job in conjunction with the agents in District I, the agents in Webster Parish, so we certainly just need one radio updated. That is one request.

Secondly, I hate to mention this particular item, though. We always had a sore thumb about our agent in Webster Parish. For the past ten years I have been coming to these meetings I believe continuously, and I have been harping on it, but I want to change my harp a little bit in a different direction.

The conservation in Webster Parish has improved 100 percent. I mentioned it last year



that it had improved and it continues improving. The only part that we have to go now is to instruct our judges and our district attorneys to carry out their part. Our agents have cases, and I have known of legitimate eye-witness cases with the gentleman that you awarded, night hunting and what-have-you, and yet we can't get a conviction. That is not helping Webster Parish and their game. That is one item, too.

The second thing that I would like to ask the Commission, I really enjoy coming down as far as Morgan City. My wife and I came down. For the past nine years and before we have been coming to Alexandria. Now I am asking and giving an invitation to come to District I in Minden, Louisiana, the opposite direction of the state, the north part. We have a fine civic center. We have a Ramada Inn. If you enjoy the things of South Louisiana, we do not have all of those, but you can go into Bossier strip and have those. There are a lot of Baptists up there and it is a dry parish, practically all of it, supposedly, so it is not very far, you go right across the line



to either parish. I think Claiborne is the same way.

Another item I would like to bring up, and I do want to thank the Commission for our lab that you put on Lake Bistineau. It is built in Webster Parish. We thank you for that, and I think it is improving. We had the Louisiana Health Department make an environmental study on waste, solid waste, going into -- I think Harmon Drew, our representative, was the ramrod of that -- into Webster Parish, and they took every fifth home that is around the Lake, and we found over 50 percent pollution into the Lake. This matter since January is being corrected. We have just about changed it now to about only a 30 percent. The water samples show a correction, corrective matter, up to about 50 percent of what showed before, so if we can get the City of Minden and the other areas there, their sanitary departments, to follow through, we will be in real good shape as far as Lake Bistineau.

I don't want to go into any further details with Bistineau because that has always been





a sore thumb, we know that, and if we leave a dog dying, it dies a little bit further, I guess.

I will conclude with reiterating that we certainly would like to have you come up to northwest Louisiana in District I, and I will comment on my other ones in just a moment, unless you want me to just sit here and --

THE CHAIRMAN: No, Ike. I appreciate your presentation and that Bossier strip business I think will probably bribe some of the members, including me, to get us to Minden. I know it would the Director. I heard him giggle pretty loud when you mentioned it a while ago and I feel sure that the Director will also assist you in getting a radio that is competent for your needs in that area. Thank you very much, sir.

MR. KIRKIKIS: Should I stay here and go ahead with the other part?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir. We are going to adjourn for just a few minutes. Does anybody else have any official business to bring before the Commission this morning before we adjourn?

Could I have a motion to adjourn?



MR. THOMPSON: Move we adjourn.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved and seconded.

Anybody opposed to it?

(No response)

So ordered. Ten minutes.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, before you adjourn, I can't help but make an observation that the floral arrangement on the head table is a water hyacinth, and I wonder if these is a message here.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Compliments of the Information Section!

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me tell you, anybody who wishes to be heard this morning before the Commission, if you have not signed up in the back and given your name and gotten your number, would you please do so while we are in recess. Thank you.

. . . Thereupon, the regular monthly Board meeting of the Commission was adjourned, after which hearing on seasons and bag limits was conducted. . . .

